Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W -------161827Z 096543 /44

P R 161748Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9132
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, UR, GW
SUBJECT: FURTHER GERMAN COMMENTS ON GENSCHER'S VISIT
TO MOSCOW

REF: BONN 10119

SUMMARY: IN A FURTHER BRIEFING ON GENSCHER'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, AN FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MADE IT CLEAR THAT LITTLE WAS ACHIEVED BUT THAT THE SOVIETS SHOWED A DESIRE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE FRG. THERE WAS NO PROGRESS ON THE BERLIN CLAUSE IN THE THREE PROPOSED GERMAN-SOVIET ACCORDS BUT BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT THEY WISH TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. BREZHNEV, DURING THE 2-HOUR MEETING, DID MOST OF THE TALKING BUT APPEARED MUCH OLDER THAN IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND SUFFERED ALSO FROM SLURRED SPEECH. BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN IS STILL PLANNED BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET BEYOND A TENTATIVE SUGGESTION THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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- 1. ANDREAS MEYER-LANDRUT, POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE, TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW PRODUCED NO CONCRETE RESULTS.
- 2. MEYER-LANDRUT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY COMMENTS REGARDING THE VISIT:
 - -- THE RUSSIANS SPENT MUCH OF THEIR TIME HECTORING

AND ADMONISHING THE GERMANS ABOUT ALL THE EVILS OF GERMAN POLICY IN BERLIN AND ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, AFTER EACH LISTING OF THIS KIND, THE SOVIETS THEN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN GERMAN PERFORMANCE AND THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IF THE GERMANS WOULD CONTINUE SUCH IMPROVEMENT. FROM THIS, MEYERLANDRUT CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT NOW READY TO REACH ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE GERMANS BUT DID NOT WISH TO FORECLOSE ANY LATER POSSIBILITIES.

--THERE WAS NO PROGRESS MADE ON THE BERLIN CLAUSE IN THE THREE OUTSTANDING ACCORDS. IN FACT, THE SUBJECT WAS NOT EVEN DISCUSSED IN DEPTH BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH SIDES MAINTAINED THEIR POSITIONS. HOWEVER, A PARTICULARLY LONG RECITAL EMERGED OF HOW THE FRG WAS NOT BEHAVING PROPERLY WITH REGARD TO BERLIN (SEE REFTEL).

--ON CSCE, THE SOVIETS PURSUED THEIR USUAL LINE
THAT BELGRADE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A PLACE TO GENERATE
CONTROVERSY. THEY TOLD THE GERMANS THAT THEY WOULD
PROPOSE THAT THE BELGRADE DISCUSSIONS BE BROKEN UP INTO
SEPARATE WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL TOPICS
OR PROPOSALS. THIS STRUCK MEYER-LANDRUT AS UNACCEPTABLE
BECAUSE IT WOULD MEAN THAT ALL THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE
HELD IN PRIVATE. MEYER-LANDRUT ASSUMED THE SOVIETS WOULD
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BE TOLD THIS IF THEY WOULD INDEED ADVANCE SUCH A PROPOSAL FORMALLY AT BELGRADE.

--DURING A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH GENSCHER, BREZHNEV APPEARED MUCH AGED AND HAD SPEECH DIFFICULTIES. NONE-THE LESS, HE TALKED FOR THE FIRST HOUR OF THE MEETING AND THEN AGAIN AT LENGTH IN RESPONSE TO GENSCHER'S ANSWERING COMMENTS. IT WAS AMUSING THAT BREZHNEV READ IN TURN FROM TWO SETS OF PAPERS IN FRONT OF HIM. ONE SET, PROBABLY PREPARED BY HIS POLITICAL STAFF,-GENERALLY CONTAINED MORE FRIENDLY AND MORE BROADGAUGED OBSERVATIONS. THE OTHER, WHICH MEYER-LANDRUT GUESSED TO BE A SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY PRODUCT, WAS MORE LIKE AN ACCOUNTANT'S WORK BOOK IN ITS DETAIL AS WELL AS MORE POLEMICAL IN ITS FLAVOR.

--THE GERMANS COULD NOT LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO PODGORNY, BUT THEY BELIEVED THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING SERIOUS BEHIND PODGORNY'S OUSTER. MEYER-LANDRUT DREW THIS CONCLUSION FROM THE

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FACT THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER, AS WELL AS FROM THE EXTREME SECRETIVENESS WITH WHICH IT APPEARED TO BE HANDLED BY EVERYBODY.

--MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF THE GEMANS, THE SOVIETS DID NOT ASK FOR CREDITS OF ANY KIND. MEYER-LANDRUT PRESUMES THEY MAY WAIT FOR A BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT MEETING TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT, SINCE THEY MUST KNOW THAT GENSCHER IS NOT ABLE TO MAKE ANY SUCH PROMISES AND, IN AN CASE, NOT MUCH INCLINED TO DO SO.

--ON MBFR, THE SOVIETS WENT THROUGH THEIR ROUTINE ACCUSATIONS THAT THE GERMANS WERE BLOCKING AGREEMENT.

--THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE COMMUNIQUE TO NEGOTIATE, CURIOUSLY, WAS THE PART DEALING WITH NON-PROLIFERATION. THE GERMANS HAD PROPOSED IN THEIR DRAFT THAT THIS PART REFER TO "ALL THE ARTICLES" OF THE NPT. CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY HAD DONE THIS BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE FRG ATTACHES TO ARTICLE IV. THE SOVIETS WANTED MUCH BROADER LANGUAGE, BUT FINALLY SETTLED ON THE EQUIVALENT OF "ALL PROVISIONS." STOESSEL

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